

20 minutes, during which time I observed with the aid of a hand lens that no part of the head was in contact with the surface of the stone. The movement was continuous, and the moths were still 'spiralling' as I left. They were un-evenly spaced on the stone between 40 cms. and 1 metre above the ground, and no two individuals were closer together than 15 cms. The vegetation at the base of the stone comprised mainly Common Couch Grass (*Agropyron repens*), with some Ivy (*Hedera helix*) and Bryony (*Bryonia dioica*).

Two moths were collected from the stone, and a further five specimens of the same species were discovered later that day, lying dead on the inside window-sill of the nearby Church Hall, and were also collected. They were later identified as *Mompha nodicolella* Fuchs, by Lt. Col. A. M. Emmet, to whom I am most grateful for that favour. This event, pleasingly, provided a first record for Vice County 18 (South Essex) of this species of moth. — C. W. PLANT, B.Sc., M.B.O.U., Assistant Curator, Natural Sciences (Biology), Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, Stratford, London E15 4LZ.

ISLE OF CANNA: INVASION OF PAINTED LADIES AND RED ADMIRALS. — An invasion of *P. cardui* and *V. atalanta* began here with the start of a fine spell on June 9th, and produced *cardui* in larger number than have been seen here for a very long time — since the autumn of 1968 it has rarely been seen here. Numbers seen and reported were as follows:

	<i>P. cardui</i>	<i>V. atalanta</i>
June 9	2	3
„ 10	1	2
„ 11	5	7
„ 12	common	common
„ 13	common	common

I was absent from June 14th to June 21st. Rain fell on the evening of June 14th, ending what had become a drought here. The next week the weather was bad, with a full storm on June 19th and a gale on the 20th. I returned in bad weather on the 21st. The weather improved on the 23rd, when one *cardui* was seen. 24th, one specimen of *cardui* and one *atalanta*; 25th, walking round a 9 acre oat field at the east end of the island, I could count 19 *cardui* at the field's edges, and also saw 4 elsewhere. 26th, 8-10 *cardui* near or around another oat field further west, 27th was cold and dull; 28th, 4 or 5 *cardui* around the first oat field mentioned, 2 *atalanta* in gardens. Many of the *cardui* looked pale and worn.

June 29th to July 5th were cold and dull days, with northerly winds. On July 7th a very worn *cardui* and a very ragged *atalanta* were seen near the east end of the island. On the 8th, Dr. Morton Boyd of the Nature Conservancy Council who was spending three days with us, organised a trip to the island of Heiskeir, which lies 6 miles south of the west end

of Canna, and extends to about ten acres, with a lighthouse manned by three men. The day was perfect, but with some north wind. I did not see any macrolepidoptera there this time (my last visit was several years ago) but Mr. R. Sutton, warden of the Isle of Rum, saw a specimen of *P. icarus* there, and the lighthouse keepers, who said they had not seen any *cardui* or *atalanta*, also commented on the existence of the *icarus* colony on Heiskeir — which is totally exposed to the Atlantic gales, the highest point being only 32 feet above sea level.

The final observations of *cardui* and *atalanta* on Canna were made by Dr. Morton Boyd, who saw 3 *cardui* and one *atalanta* near the east end of the island on July 9th, but none elsewhere in the course of wide ranging walks. — J. L. CAMPBELL, Isle of Canna, Hebrides.

ETHMIA FUNERELLA F. LARVAE ON MYOSOTIS. — In 1939, with the late H. W. Daltry, I took an example of *Ethmia funerella* in a wood on the Staffordshire side of Dovedale. There was no *Symphytum* in the vicinity and Mr. Daltry suggested the food plant might have been *Myosotis sylvatica*. Subsequently I found the moths in a number of places in the Manifold and Churnet valleys, resting on vegetation or fences along the margins of woods; in all these places *Myosotis* was present but no *Symphytum*.

I have on several occasions searched for the larvae without success but on 3rd September 1980 I found larvae in two localities in the Churnet Valey on plants of *Myosotis sylvatica*, which at this time of year are often hidden under nettles and other rank growth.

One larva I brought away readily accepted garden forget-me-not but after eating portions of one or two leaves it disappeared into the heart of the plant where it is apparently feeding in the stem at the base of the leaves, frass being extruded. This appears to be quite different from its described feeding habits on *Symphytum*; possibly it only occurs in the final stages before pupation and this may account for my finding larvae on only two or three of the plants which bore evidence of feeding on the leaves. — R. G. WARREN, Wood Ridings, 32 Whitmore Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent.

NEOFRISERIA SINGULA STDRG. (LEP.: GELECHIIDAE) IN RABBIT BURROWS. — Whilst searching around the mouths of rabbit burrows at Lakenheath Warren on June 1st this year (with the object of discovering the beetle *Cardiophorus asellus* and others) I noticed several small moths flying inside the burrows, and on feeling about with the hand as far as could be reached, many more were disturbed. I sent several to Michael Chalmers-Hunt, who kindly identified them as the above species.

There was no sign of the moth in the open; evidently it has some particular interest in adopting this habitat. — JOHN PARRY, 38, Heather Drive, St. Michaels, Tenterden, Kent. 23.8.80.